

JOSEPH S. AND WIVES,  
NANCY ELIZABETH CUM-  
MINGS AND MARY M. JONES  
McDONALD



Joseph S. McDonald was born in Belfast, Down County, Ireland on October 15, 1842, a son of James and Sarah Ferguson McDonald. Married Nancy Elizabeth Cummings in 1863. She was born in Gibson County, Tenn., a daughter of John and Rachel Kennedy Cummings. She died October 18, 1881. He then married Mary Melinda in 1883 a daughter of Elisha and Sarah Ann Cummings Jones of Heber. Joseph died February 15, 1930, and Mary died Dec 7, 1936.

Joseph S. McDonald's parents, of Scotch descent, were born and reared in Northern Ireland. Joseph was the seventh child in the family.

In 1841 the McDonalds were one of the first four families in their community to join The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. After selling their possessions for \$200 in 1843 they came as immigrants to America with 250 other saints.

They joined the main body of the Church in Nauvoo, Ill., and lived there for two and a half years. After the martyrdom of the Prophet they were driven out of Nauvoo and moved to Bonepart, Iowa, and later to Kanesville, Iowa. The father and older boys worked diligently to support the family and also to get wagons, teams and provisions to cross the plains with the other saints.

In June of 1850 the family joined the Aaron Johnson Company and began their journey across the plains. Cholera broke out in the company and many lost their lives including James, June 17, 1850, just one week after the trek started. His wife Sarah, was filled with grief, but with assistance of kind friends she was able to bring her family to Salt Lake City, arriving there on September 12, 1850.

Sarah was advised by the leaders of the Church to settle her family in Mountainville (now Alpine) where feed was plentiful for their animals. The following spring they moved to Springville, where they lived until 1862. When Sarah moved to Heber, Wasatch County, during that year, Joseph and most of the family accompanied her. Here they took up land, built homes and became farmers and stockmen.

Joseph married Nancy Elizabeth Cummings in 1863. To this union was born the following children: Sarah Jane, Joseph Cummings, Rachel, James X, Mary Ann, John, Isaac David.

Nancy was a helpful companion to Joseph, and a cheerful, loving mother for their children. She died after an illness of eighteen months.

Joseph married Mary Melinda Jones in 1883. She was born March 23, 1863. They lived in Heber for a few years, then Joseph took up a homestead in Buysville and moved his family there in 1892, where he went into the sheep business.

Mary assumed the place of a second mother to her husband's children and also bore the following children, two of whom died in infancy: William, Nancy Elizabeth, Sarah Ann, Edna, Ina, Otto, Stella, Jennie, Hyrum, Gladys.

Joseph S. took into his home and cared for Chester Davis, Nels Peterson and Arthur Bartell, all orphan boys.

The family always took an active part in their community and Church affairs, which brought great happiness to all of them.

Joseph inherited many fine qualities from his parents, their Scotch thrift, ambition and a bit of Irish wit as well. He loved to entertain his family with stories of his early life, especially of his experiences as a soldier in the Black Hawk Indian War.

Mary was a patient, kind, humble woman and was loved by all. Hard work and many responsibilities were her daily companions. She was very devoted to the Gospel and had a burning testimony as evidence of her faith.

Though Mary and Joseph have long since died, their children love and revere their memories.

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